

“(I) in how to teach children with different learning styles, particularly children with disabilities and children with special learning needs (including children who are gifted and talented), or

“(II) in how best to discipline children in the classroom and identify early and appropriate interventions to help children described in subclause (I) to learn,

“(iii) is tied to the ability of an eligible educator to enable students to meet challenging State or local content standards and student performance standards,

“(iv) is tied to strategies and programs that demonstrate effectiveness in assisting an eligible educator in increasing student academic achievement and student performance, or substantially increasing the knowledge and teaching skills of an eligible educator, and

“(v) is part of a program of professional development for eligible educators which is approved and certified by the appropriate local educational agency as furthering the goals of the preceding clauses.

“(C) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

“(3) QUALIFIED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATH TEACHER.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2)(D), the term ‘qualified science, technology, engineering, or math teacher’ means, with respect to a taxable year, an individual who—

“(A) has a bachelor’s degree or other advanced degree in a field related to science, technology, engineering, or math,

“(B) was employed as a nonteaching professional in a field related to science, technology, engineering, or math for not less than 3 taxable years during the 10-taxable-year period ending with the taxable year,

“(C) is certified as a teacher of science, technology, engineering, or math in the individual’s State licensing system for the first time during such taxable year, and

“(D) is employed at least part-time as a teacher of science, technology, engineering, or math in an elementary or secondary school during such taxable year.

“(4) EXEMPTION FROM MINIMUM EDUCATION OR NEW TRADE OR BUSINESS EXCEPTION.—For purposes of applying subsection (a)(2)(D) and this subsection, the determination as to whether qualified professional development expenses, or expenses for the initial certification described in subsection (a)(2)(D)(iii), are deductible under section 162 shall be made without regard to any disallowance of such a deduction under such section for such expenses because such expenses are necessary to meet the minimum educational requirements for qualification for employment or qualify the individual for a new trade or business.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 3446. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to advance the health and wellbeing of schoolchildren in the United States through technical assistance, training, and support for healthy school foods, local wellness policies, and nutrition promotion and education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to express support for S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-

Free Kids Act of 2010, and to introduce two pieces of legislation that I hope will be included in the final reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act that is passed by this body.

I commend Chairman LINCOLN and Ranking Member CHAMBLISS for their successful efforts to produce a bipartisan and fully paid for Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill—a bill that won unanimous support in the Agriculture Committee where it passed this past March.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 is critically important to the health, well-being, and even education of our nation’s children. It seeks to confront the challenges of hunger and obesity that are increasingly pervasive in our youth. Specifically, the act reauthorizes our nation’s major Federal child nutrition programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, WIC, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

Totaling \$4.5 billion in additional funding over the next 10 years, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is the largest new investment in child nutrition programs since their inception—and it is completely paid for by off-sets in other USDA programs. This added funding will allow for an increase in reimbursement rates for school meals, which is an important provision since current reimbursement rates fall short of the funding schools need in order to provide nutritious meals with fresh fruits and vegetables to students. The bill also makes mandatory the funding authorized in the Child Nutrition Act to help schools establish school gardens and source local foods through “farm to cafeteria” efforts.

Beyond funding, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act makes enrollment into the free school meals program automatic for foster children and for students already enrolled in Medicaid. The bill further promotes the establishment of school wellness policies, and allows the USDA to set school nutrition standards for all foods, including those sold a la carte, in vending machines and during special events such as afterschool sports.

While this bill, combined with the President’s request of \$10 billion for child nutrition programs over the next 10 years, represents a huge step toward a healthier population of young people, I believe there is room for even more improvement. To this end, I am today introducing the Child Nutrition Enhancement Act, and the Ensuring All Students Year-Round, EASY, Access to Meals and Snacks Act. These two bills will help schools ramp up their nutrition and health programs, and ensure that kids have access to food, even on weekends and holidays when they cannot get meals at school. These bills also enjoy House support, with Rep-

resentatives POLIS and LARSEN already having introduced companions in that chamber.

The Child Nutrition Enhancement Act would expand the Team Nutrition Networks program, a USDA program that provides grants to school districts to support State Wellness and Nutrition Networks in schools that conduct nutrition education and enhance school wellness. To allow this expansion, the bill includes mandatory funding at a level of 1 cent per reimbursable meal through National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program, totaling approximately \$70 million per year. Such funding would be used for State staff and programs, formula-based grants and USDA administration.

The Ensuring All Students Year-round Access to Meals and Snacks Act would allow local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations to feed children meals and snacks 365 days-a-year through the Summer Food Service Program, whether it be after school, on weekends and school holidays, or during the summer. School supplemental food providers find that children often go hungry on weekends and school holidays because their main source of nutrition is the free school lunch program. This bill would allow food service programs to fill in the gaps on holidays and weekends when kids are likely to miss meals, and ease the administrative burden of food service programs by allowing year round meals and snacks through the Summer Food Service Program, rather the current requirement to switch back and forth between the Summer Food Service Program and other child nutrition programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

With September 30th as the looming deadline for reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, I call on my colleagues and the leadership in the Senate to expedite the debate and passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. I look forward to working with the Agriculture Committee and the Senate leadership to include the Child Nutrition Enhancement Act, and the EASY Access to Meals and Snacks Act in the final bill, and to complete the legislative process for this important reauthorization.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3447. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am introducing today the proposed Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010. This measure is designed to make a number of modifications to the new program of educational assistance which became effective on August 1, 2009.

As one of three remaining Senators who benefited from the original GI Bill